

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 2423 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
CALI MEDELLIN 14 MARCH.

QUOTE

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2423

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: EX PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS COMMENTS ON SECRETARYS ADDRESS

REF BOGOTA 2214

1. THE MARCH 15 ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY NUEVA FRONTERA PUBLISHED
BY FORMER PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO, CARRIED THE FULL
TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGERS MARCH 1 HOUSTON SPEECH ALONG
WITH A LONG FAVORABLE COMMENTARY BY LLERAS HIMSELF. LLERAS
ADMONISHED THE LATIN AMERICANS THEAT THEY "WOULD COMMIT
A GRAVE ERROR IF THEY DID NOT EXAMINE ALL THE POSITIVE
ASPECTS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATES INITIATIVE..." LLERAS
POINTED OUT THAT TIMING IS THE KEY TO SECRETARY KISSINGERS
MODUS OPERANDI AND THAT THE SPEECH ALONG WITH THE APPOINTMENT
OF WILLIAM ROGERS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LATIN
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AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND THE PROPOSED TRIP THROUGH LATIN AMERICA

BY THE SECRETARY AMOUNTED TO A COORDINATED AND CAREFULLY
TIMED SHOW OF INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA THAT SHOULD NOT
BE IGNORED.

2. REVIEWING THE SPEECH POINT BY POINT, LLERAS FIRST
COMMENTED ON THE TWO-PRONGED ISSUE OF RECOGNITION OF
CUBA AND THE OAS. LLERAS PRAISED THE SECRETARY'S
INSISTANCE ON FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CUBAN QUESTION
WITHIN THE OAS AND CHIDED THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT FOR
OVERLOOKING COLOMBIA'S TRADITION OF HONORING INTER-
NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND SIMPLY IMITATING OTHER LATIN
AMERICAN COUNTRIES BY RECOGNIZING CUBA BEFORE THE
SANCTIONS WERE LIFTED. ON THE CANAL ISSUE, LLERAS
EMPHASIZED THAT THE CHOICE OF NETURALITY OR MILITARY
PROTECTION FOR THE CANAL BY THE US WAS DIFFICULT, BUT
IN ANY EVENT, COLOMBIA SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN
THE ISSUE SINCE TRANSIT THROUGHT THE CANAL HAS PROVENTO
BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
WESTERN COLOMBIA AND OT THE HEMISPHERE. ON TRADE PRE
FERENCES LLERAS OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE DANGERS OF
UNCERTAINTY DUE TO ESCAPE CLAUSES CONTAINED THEREIN AND
THAT PRESENTLY COLOMBIA STANDS TO GAIN LITTLE, BUT
LIBERTY OF ACCESS FOR TEN YEARS TO A MARKET SO IMPORTANT AS
NORTH AMERICA IS VERY ATTRACTIVE"" LLERAS ENCOURAGED
COLOMBIAN BUSINESS TO BEGIN INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITIES
OF DEVELOPING INDUSTRIES WHICH COULD COMPETE UNDER THE
PREFERENCES SYSTEM. LLERAS WELCOMED THE SECRETARY'S STATE
MENT ON ENCOURAGING TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES TO OPERATE TO
THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF HOST COUNTRIES,
BUT LAMENTED THAT IT WAS "VAGUE" AND DD" NOT
INDICATE IN WHAT MANNER THIS ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD BE
GIVEN". HE POINTEDOUT THAT THERE ARE VITAL BENEFITS
TO BE DERIVED FROM THE COMPANIES AND IT WOULD BE
DANGEROUS TO REACT TO PURELY NATIONALISTIC POLITICAL
TERMS. LLERAS LAUDED THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO
REQUEST ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE IDB FROM
CONGRESS. HE NOTED, "ASIDE FROM THE CONFERENCE OF
QUITANDIHNA, I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED THIS ENTITY
(IDB) AS THE MOST POSITIVE VICTORY ATTAINED BY LATIN
AMERICA IN THE FINANCIAL FIELD.

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